month (January) four Kookaburras have died in one of these troughs though none have died in the others, yet they are only 30 yards apart. I would like to point out also that no other birds, except Kookaburras, have died in this manner.

There would appear to be good grounds for thinking the birds only die in artificial water troughs which are new to them and that once caught they become wise. Otherwise there would be a steady death roll every year. But what induces them to dive into the water? Is it an inherited instinct which has outlived its usefulness? Or is it, perhaps, territorial behaviour against their own reflection? This might be cleared up to some extent if the birds were examined to see if they were all young birds which perish in this manner.

—ANGUS ROBINSON, "Yanjettee," Coolup.

Races of the White-tailed Black Cockatoo.—In the *Western Australian Naturalist,* vol. 1, 1948, p. 137, Mr. I. C. Carnaby described a subspecies of the White-tailed Black Cockatoo *(Calyptorhynchus baudinii latirostris)* from the drier parts of the South-west on the basis of its shorter and broader bill than that of the race from the heavy-forested corner of the South-west *(C. b. baudinii).* Below I give measurements of the bills of 34 birds which were shot at Bridgetown as orchard pests:

Culmen	Width	Culmen-width ratio	Culmen	Width	Culmen-width ratio
mm.	mm.		mm.	mm.	
59	21	2.80	54.1	21.8	2.48
59	21	2.80	53.4	21.5	2.48
53.7	19.6	2.74	54.2	22	2.46
56	21	2.66	54.0	22.1	2.44
54.0	20.4	2.65	53.5	21.9	2.44
55.0	20.8	2.64	52.3	21.4	2.44
55	21	2.62	51.7	21.2	2.44
52.3	20.0	2.62	53.1	22.0	2.41
55.8	21.4	2.61	52	21.8	2.39
46	19	2.57	53.0	22.3	2.38
54.2	21.2	2.56	56.5	23.9	2.36
53.1	20.8	2.55	53.2	22.5	2.36
53.1	21.2	2.50	52.4	22.4	2.34
54.4	21.8	2.50	52.1	22.4	2.33
55.1	22	2.50	45.1	20	2.26
53.2	21.4	2.49	52.3	23.2	2.25
55.9	23.6	2.48	44	21	2.09

These figures corroborate Mr. Carnaby's conclusions. The mean of the Bridgetown ratio is 2.49 compared with Mr. Carnaby's figure of 2.40 for *C. b. baudinii* generally in the S.W. That for *C. b. latirostris,* the mallee form, is given as 1.88. Data from other districts would be very welcome to find out whether there is a gradual transition between the two races or whether there is a stepped cline, and if so where the zone of demarcation is. Any bird shot should be carefully measured or the head cut off and sent to the W.A. Museum.

—H. M. WHITTELL, Bridgetown.